	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/665,987	GRIFFITHS, JOSEPH ANTHONY	
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit	
,	Dinnatia Doster-Greene	3743	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appearance All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this apport or other appropriate communication IGHTS. This application is subject to	plication. If not include will be mailed in due	ed course. <b>THIS</b>
1. This communication is responsive to 9/18/03; 12/08/03 and	d 01/12/04.		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-11</u> .			
3. $\boxtimes$ The drawings filed on <u>18 September 2003</u> are accepted by	the Examiner.		
4.			
Attachment(s)  1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date  4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. 🛭 Examiner's Stateme 9. 🔲 Other Hen	(PTO-413), te ment/Comment	·

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## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose the following combination:

A flexible oro-nasal mask for mounting in a rigid shell attached to a helmet of aircrew at a fixed distance therefrom, the flexible oro-nasal mask comprising an inspiratory and expiratory valve and a periphery of the mask being adapted to make a seal with a wearer's face, the oro-nasal mask comprising: an extendable means operable to press the periphery of the mask automatically towards the wearer's face to improve the seal therewith when gas at a pressure above that for normal breathing is supplied to the mask and the extendable means reconfigures as a result thereof, the extendable means being configured so that when the gas is supplied to an interior of the mask, a portion thereof in a bottom region of the mask extends more than a portion in an upper region of the mask so that the bottom of the mask is moved away from the wearer's face by a greater amount in a chin region of the wearer's face than in the nose region of the wearer's face, whereby the mask is capable of pivoting upwardly automatically to compensate for effects of G forces.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

## Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dinnatia Doster-Greene whose telephone number is 571-272-7143. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on 571-272-4791. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-271-7143.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ddg

Superficory Patent Examiner